



RANDOLPH-MACON COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES BEGIN TO-DAY WITH BACCALAUREATE SERMON

Chanch Memorial Dormitory is
Now Ready for Occupancy.
Splendidly Equipped.

GENEROSITY OF THE DONOR

Tuesday to be Devoted to Athletic
Exercise—Changes in the
Faculty.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
ASHLAND, VA., June 9.—To-day the
commencement exercises at Randolph-Macon Col-
lege end, and to-morrow the baccalaureate
sermon, which will be preached at 11 A. M., by the Rev. C. D. Bulla, of
Alexandria, Va., in the Duncan Memorial
Church, and at 8:30 P. M. the Rev. Geo.
E. Booker, of Charlottesville, will make
the annual Young Men's Christian Association
address.

On Tuesday morning the Board of Trust-
ees will hold their annual meeting, and
at night the exercises will be devoted to
the athletic interests of the college, and
the letters will be awarded to the mem-
bers of the baseball and foot-ball teams.
Short speeches will be made by the
various recent graduates and possibly
some visiting athletes will make an ad-
dress to the Athletic Association.

On Wednesday morning Rev. W. A.
Christian, of Petersburg, will make an
address before the alumni society, and
immediately thereafter the Sutherland
oratorical contest will be held. At 3
o'clock the alumni banquet will be given
at the Henry Clay Inn, to which all
alumni and the Board of Trustees are
invited to be the guests of the college.

At 8:30 that night there will be the
celebration of the literary societies, at
which Mr. W. A. Christian will represent
the Washington Literary Society, and
Mr. C. L. Yancey will speak for the
Franklin Literary Society.
At 11 A. M. on Tuesday, Dr. Edwin
Mims, of Trinity College, N. C., will
deliver an address to the graduating
class, after which the medals and
diplomas will be awarded.

The exercises will close Thursday night,
with the senior class exercises.
The Present Session
The present session has been satisfac-
tory in every way, and recently Mr. W.
S. Brown, the secretary and treasurer
of the college, said that the session of
1905-'06 was one of the most successful
in the history of the college.

occasionally by the death of the late Dr.
A. C. Wright, who was an appointment
Dr. Conrad is a Ph. D. of the University
of Pennsylvania, and at the present time,
is the holder of the handsomest fellow-
ship at the Johns Hopkins University.
Previously he published, through the Col-
lege Institute, an extensive work on the
"Water Lily." Randolph-Macon will be
fortunate in securing his services.
Prof. I. F. Lewis, who has so satisfac-
torily filled the chair of biology and
physics, since Dr. Wrightman's death,
has gone to Jamaica to do some research
work. Later in the summer he will be
employed in the government laboratories
at Beaufort, N. C.

Last week Dr. E. W. Bowen, profes-
sor of Latin, left Ashland for Italy,
where he will spend the summer engag-
ing in work for his department; and
Dr. La. Ward, B. L., professor of
modern languages, also has gone abroad.
Dr. Easter will be in France during the
summer in the interest of his depart-
ment.

Dr. Cantor, of the department of chem-
istry, has recently been offered the chair
of chemistry in a large college in Texas
at much larger salary than his present
one. Randolph-Macon, however, will
make every effort to hold him, and it
is not thought that he will leave Ash-
land.

Prof. D. R. Anderson, a recent Ran-
dolph-Macon graduate and now in charge
of a large academy on the Northern
Neck of Virginia, has been elected to
the presidency of a college in Oklaho-
ma, which is being established by the
Methodists of that State.

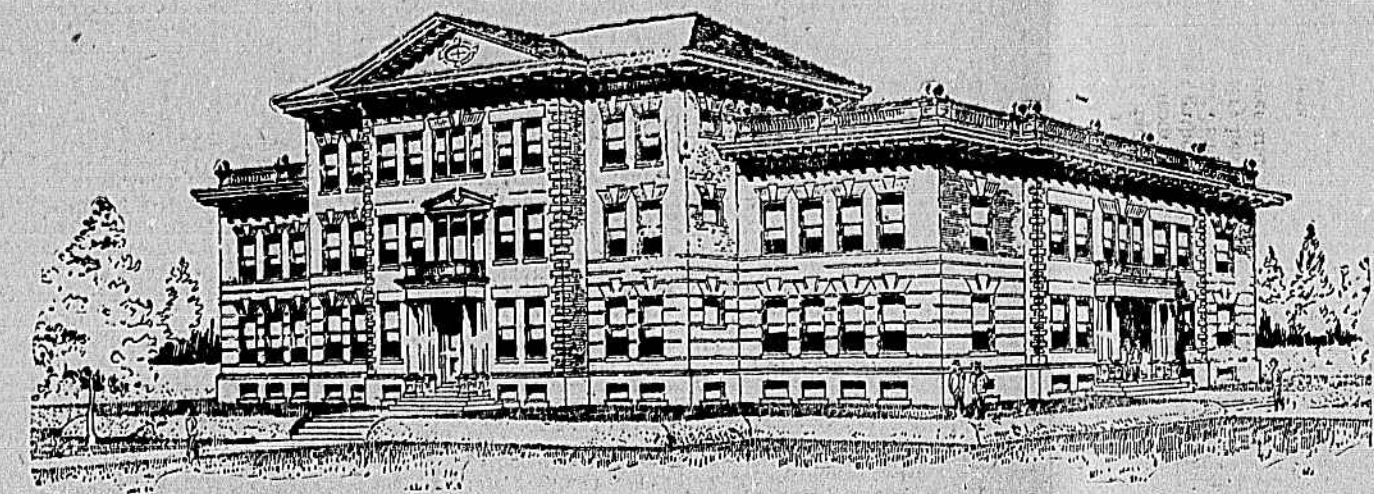
The large dormitory is now completed
and ready for occupancy.

Branch Memorial Dormitory

Through the munificence of Randolph-
Macon's good friend, Mr. John P. Branch,
the college at Ashland now has the finest
dormitory in the State. Before the plans
for the building were drawn, the College
Building Committee sent an architect to
inspect the dormitories at the different
institutions of Virginia, and even went
as far as to have the buildings at Prin-
ceton University, and the University of
Pennsylvania, inspected, in order to get
the benefit of the experience of these
institutions and to become familiar with
the most recent dormitory methods.

After the construction had been com-
pleted, it was seen that the original gift of
\$20,000 was inadequate to complete the
building in the way the college officers
and the building committee desired; and
again Mr. Branch came to the rescue
with an additional gift of \$5,000, which
also he has again supplemented with
amounts sufficient to install a gas plant
for the dormitory and to terrace and turf
the ground around the new building. The
dormitory, a out of which is seen on
this page, is built of red brick with
gray stone trimmings and is almost
shaped with the main building, and
the "E" left off. It has been so con-
structed that three separate dormitories
have been obtained within one single
building. This was accomplished by hav-
ing no communications between the north
and south wings and the main building,
and by grouping all of the rooms in a
division around the stairway. The purpose
of this was to obviate the long corri-
dors, the scene of so much disorder in
other institutions. On each floor of
each division there is a handsome fitted
bath-room, having porcelain basins,
showed baths and other modern con-
veniences. Throughout it is heated with
steam, and it is piped and wired for
gas and electricity. It will accommo-
date about one hundred men, and in
connection with the cottage dormitory
system this will enable Randolph-Macon
to receive many more students than for-
merly. The building is surrounded by a
wide terrace, and will be altogether a
handsome addition to the campus.

There may be some teachers who fol-
low the profession for the love of it; but
love will not clothe and feed them; love
will not buy the necessary books and
periodicals for them to read in order to
guard against "dry rot"; love will not send
them to summer schools, pay railroad
fare that they may have the necessary
travel to prevent them from becoming
narrow and provincial; love will not take
care of them in their old age, nor bury
them when they are dead. Neither will
the pitifully little salaries of twenty-five
and thirty dollars a month, which most
of them get, for five months in a year,
do it. We must have better salaries
for our teachers and their efficiency will
increase in direct proportion to the in-
crease in salaries. It has not, there-
fore, been so much the teachers' fault,
but, as I said before, the result of a
poor business policy, which no man will
follow in his private affairs.
But, a better day is dawning for the
teachers of Virginia. The State, no longer
poor and debt-laden, is entering
upon the dawn of a brighter day. She



BRANCH MEMORIAL DORMITORY, OF RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE, ASHLAND, VA.

FOUR YEARS' PROGRESS IN VIRGINIA SCHOOLS.

By ROBERT FRAZER.—IV.

BETTER TEACHERS.

The preceding articles of this series
have had to do mainly with matters of
material progress. If the schools of Vir-
ginia are ever to do the work that is
needed to train the children for the high
demands of modern civilization, much
depends upon their material equipment.
But, however complete may be the ar-
rangements as to houses, grounds, furni-
ture, libraries, laboratories, shops, courses
of study, longer terms, etc., it all goes
for nothing without competent teachers.
Here are some opinions from the highest
expert authorities: The teacher is the
real centre of all education. . . .
Among the educational problems which
must be solved before our schools become
efficient, the teacher problem is perhaps
the most vital. . . . The teacher's ser-
vice is the most important service that
any class renders to the State, for with
the working with the central secret of
human progress; as is the teacher, so
is the school.

The last published report from the
Department of Public Instruction (that of

Important fact of the business of this
board is (1), to visit the schools, note
carefully the work of teachers, and make
such suggestions as may seem valuable in
improving school conditions; and (2), to
hold examinations, issue certificates, and
prescribe courses of reading, bearing upon
the advancement of professional knowl-
edge and skill. The regulations per-
taining to examinations and certificates
have been systematized in such a way
as to secure the progress in efficiency of
the teachers, the requirements being
made higher and higher every year.
Teachers failing to meet these constantly
advancing requirements are to be
dropped.

The regular appropriation for summer
normal institutes has been doubled, and
eleven of these institutes are to be held
this summer. They are so placed as to
be accessible to teachers in every sec-
tion of the State. The conductors are
directed to adjust their courses of study
and method of treatment to the needs
of the great body of teachers in our un-
graded and semi-graded country schools.

every paper one takes up, reports some
of the progress made by the teachers
themselves, with a good programme for
the discussion of vital problems in teach-
ing.

But best of all, and richest in promise,
is the great fact that nowhere in the
world can you find better teachers than
in the army of good women and men, now
devoting themselves to this high service
of the State. Nowhere can you find a
body of teachers of finer fibre or higher
quality; and, after all, it is character
that tells in the school-room.

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER.

Extracts From an Address Made by Mr.
Charles G. Maples, Examiner of
Schools for the Fifth Circuit, at the
Teachers' District Conference, Held
at Harrisonburg, Va.

My sympathies have always been with
the public school teachers of Virginia.
Much has been required of them and but
little given in return. The standard set
for them by the public has been high,
the qualifications demanded have been
many and increasing, and yet their salar-
ies have remained practically the same for
the past twenty-five years.

No nobler service can be rendered than
that given by the public school teacher,
none which calls for higher sacrifice of
mind and soul, and yet the attitude of
this profession is one of condescension
and ridicule. They forget that "the rag-
tag and bobtail of the learned profession"
as teachers are sometimes called, are
training the next generation of their
kindred.

I declare, without fear of contradiction,
that the teachers of Virginia rank higher
in knowledge of their work and in skill
in executing it, and in general ability to
perform the duties imposed upon them
in proportion to any other body of men
or women engaged in any profession or
calling from the ministry down to the
hod-carrier.

They are perhaps, more keenly sensi-
ble of their narrow limitations than
those who are inclined to be largely
selfish. They also know that it is largely
the short-sighted unbusiness-like
policy of these few critics, of expect-
ing 100 work from them on \$25 pay. In
but rare instances can this be realized.
We generally get what we pay for, or
less—seldom more.

There may be some teachers who fol-
low the profession for the love of it; but
love will not clothe and feed them; love
will not buy the necessary books and
periodicals for them to read in order to
guard against "dry rot"; love will not send
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fare that they may have the necessary
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Fine Work Done in Model and Practice School

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., June 9.—The
Model and Practice School of William
and Mary College has just closed, per-
haps the most successful session since it
has been established. The total number
of pupils enrolled in the four grades and
the kindergarten for the session was one
hundred and thirty-four.

This feature of the educational de-
partment of William and Mary College is
unique in the South, and absolutely dis-
tinctive of William and Mary College.
This school was established seventeen
years ago through the efforts of Profes-
sor H. S. Bird. It began with thirty
pupils and one room. Through the efforts
of its former principal, Miss Lucy L.
Davis, of Lynchburg, and its present
principal, Miss Nannie C. Davis, working
against what seems to be overwhelming
odds—popular opposition to the "new and
true education," financial barriers, and
many other discouraging circumstances,
the school has been raised to a dignified
position, challenging the admiration and

building with one teacher, to a four-
room building, with five teachers.
The primary purpose of this school is
to teach men how to teach. The senior
education men of the college are required
to spend three months putting in prac-
tice those principles which they have
learned in the lecture-room, thus prepar-
ing themselves for intelligent work in
the public schools of Virginia. How well
this work is being done is attested by the
great demand for William and Mary
graduates in the public schools. Thus
William and Mary, primarily a pioneer,
becomes once again a pioneer, and bids
fair to influence more deeply and ef-
fectively than ever before the life of
the nation by teaching the main spring
of all future life—the childhood of the
South.

Ever progressive, once again, last
year, a kindergarten was added to the
Practice School, which, under the skill-
ful and efficient direction of Miss Mar-
garet Murphy, of Louisville, Ky., has
endeared itself to the mothers of Wil-
liamsburg, and become indispensable to
School, has gone to visit the splendid
schools of Indianapolis, and the schools
of that greatest of educators, McMurtry,
at De Hall's, Ill., after which she will
take a summer work at Chicago University.
Miss Murphy, manager of the kindergar-
ten, has gone to take work at Colum-
bia.

Miss Elizabeth Morecock, the fourth
grade teacher, will go to the School of
Methods, at Charlottesville. To sum-
marize, the work at this school is nat-
ure study in the Summer School at Farm-
ville.

Educational Rally In Clarke County

It was the privilege and pleasure of
your correspondent to be at the educa-
tional rally at Boyce (Clarke county) on
the 26th instant. The prime object of
this meeting was the furtherance of a
movement already begun for the erection
of a high school building at this village.
Though not one of the speakers pledged
for the occasion was in evidence, disap-
pointment at their absence was mini-
mized by the timely, entertaining and
masterly address of Hon. George Har-
rison, a lawyer of ability and just repute.
Situated as it is, at the intersection of
two turnpikes, on either side of the rail-
road and in two school districts, Boyce
is peculiarly eligible to the honor of a
high school. It is the opinion of the pro-
moters of the enterprise—and a most
reasonable one—that a school of the
character contemplated would draw a
large contingent from the adjacent dis-
trict, for which they would receive proper
compensation, and pave the way to con-
solidation. The committee, composed of
some of the most prominent business men
of the section, is to have a conference
with the trustees in a few days, at which
meeting decisive action is expected.
School conditions prevailing last session
were not satisfactory, and we hope for
better facilities in the near future.
Respectfully,
C. G. MASSEY.

FREE NIGHT SCHOOL IS DOING FINE WORK

Teaching Mill Operatives Who
Can Neither Read Nor
Write.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

SPRAY, N. C., June 9.—The Spray Free
Night School Association, composed of
the following officers: Dr. B. T. Bittling,
president; Dr. J. J. Van Noppen, vice-
president; W. B. Weaver, treasurer; E.
E. Emerson, secretary, and John Wilson,
principal, is doing a great and good
work here. The school is for the benefit
of the mill operatives, who can neither
read nor write, and is taught four nights
in each week.
The organization of this school was
effected about a month ago, and the
attendance and interest manifested by

building with one teacher, to a four-
room building, with five teachers.
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to teach men how to teach. The senior
education men of the college are required
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pany. This plant will start its wheels
Monday.

Mr. W. B. Weaver, former manager of
Western Union Telegraph Company here,
has accepted a position as traveling sales-
man for the Jones Wood and Cotton
Company of Louisville, and will start
out on his first trip next week.

Mr. S. H. Marshall and family, will
leave in a few days for Tabboton, Ga.,
where they will spend two or three weeks
with Mr. Marshall's people.

Mr. Walter Neal, recently with the
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Mr. Sanford Gilley, telegraph operator
from Whitest Institute, will handle a
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Mr. John M. Morehead and family
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they will spend the summer.

Mr. A. L. Jackson, proprietor of the
Colonnade Hotel, has left for States-
ville, where he will spend the next ten
days.

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Massanutten Academy Ends a
Most Successful Term.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WOODSTOCK, VA., June 9.—The com-
mencement exercises at Massanutten
Academy this week, have been attended
by large crowds. They commenced on
Friday night with a song recital by
prima donna Eleanor Kessler, and fol-
lowed by a banquet. On Sunday night
the baccalaureate sermon was preached
in the Reformed Church, by the Rev.
W. C. Shaffer, of Lancaster, Pa.

A historical contest was held on
Monday evening, in which a number of
students took part. The first prize was
awarded to Miss Katie Bushong. Field
day was held on Tuesday morning, and
some excellent records made by those
participating. The first prize was won
by Harry Shuttles, in Class A, and
Shields Chapman, in Class B.

The tennis tournament resulted in
victories for Miss Joie Swartz and
Charles Skyles. Tuesday night a fine
musical program was rendered under the
direction of Professor J. C. Bolger.
The academy closed on Wednesday
night with a reception, which ended the
most successful year of the school.
It is proposed to erect other buildings
as soon as possible to meet the in-
creased attendance.

AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The march of progress in America has
been contemporaneous with the develop-
ment of our agricultural resources.
What other incentive should we need to
foster an industry that has played such
an important part in our national wel-
fare? Yet, strange to say, the teaching
of agriculture has been shamefully ne-
glected, until we find great areas of coun-
try but little better than waste land,
and in many sections abandoned to the
agencies of nature. Do we fully realize
what has brought about this state of
condition of affairs? If not, should we
not come to the consideration of a ques-
tion fraught with such vital import to
the future welfare of our country? Is not
the condition portrayed, and which may
now be too frequently witnessed through-
out the length and breadth of our great
country, the result of the ignorant culti-
vation of the soil, the pursuit of the
methods of the soil robber, the destroyer
of the wealth and the beauty and the
splendor that were garnered into the
bosom of nature by the physical agencies
of centuries now remote? Surely, the
conclusion of those who have been giv-
ing diligent consideration to this im-
portant subject, and is it not high time
that some definite action was taken
looking to the amelioration of an agri-
cultural practice that has brought about
such dire results? Is it not time that
some effort was made to educate more
rational ideas of culture into the minds
of those who are to be the future tillers
of the soil and the bulwark of the coun-
try in time of peace and war alike? The
conditions which we now face, are the
result of hasty and inefficient practice.
The collection of our agriculture is a
matter therefore that merits the atten-
tion of our educational leaders, for there
is no subject which has been so utterly
neglected in the past, and there is none
worthy of greater attention in the fu-
ture.

Agriculture, at best, is an applied
science, and the inculcation of the truths
that govern correct scientific practice,
finding their foundation as they do on
a number of fundamental sciences, will
do more for the permanent welfare and
advancement of a large section of the
population than any other form of in-
struction that can be provided in our
rural schools. But the teaching of agri-
culture, having to do as it does with the
growth, development and utility of plants
and animals, with the relation of the
elements of the soil to crop production,
and the beautifying of the face of na-
ture, should not be confined to the rural
schools. Agriculture, properly taught,
can be made a culture study and used
to develop the mind as effectively as
the study of history, mathematics, or
even the classics. The useful man is

all his phases, our school curricula are
often outlined by those having a rather
one-sided view of what constitutes true
education, and as a result many sub-
jects have been set aside that are pecu-
liarly valuable because of the varied and
enlivening mind training they provide
along with the training of the hand.
The skillful control of the various organs
of the body is, after all, education in
the broadest sense of that word. To sum-
marize, therefore, that agriculture has no cul-
tural value, that it cannot be incorpo-
rated in the curricula of the public
schools advantageously, or taught with
ease, with profit, or with delight and
satisfaction to the children, is to admit
ignorance of the fundamental principles
of the applied sciences which constitute
agriculture, and it is this that has
caused the many so-called failures to
make agriculture an interesting, attrac-
tive and valuable feature of the curricula
of our public schools.

There is no subject that lends itself
more readily to the needs of the teacher,
and it would be a comparatively simple
matter to provide a suitable course of
instruction for the training of teachers
in school gardening and the application
of the elementary principles of agricul-
ture, plant life and soil knowledge, in
a manner that would enable them to
make this one of the strongest, most
useful and attractive educational fea-
tures of their schools.

Mr. F. M. Brandly, Jr., of Charlott-
ville, N. C., has just arrived, and will
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keeper for the German-American Com-
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tures of the work of our public schools.
How this might be brought about may
be considered more particularly and in
better advantage in another paper. This
progress made in several States show-
ing that with suitable text books and prop-
erly inspired teachers, agriculture can be
taught successfully, and this is enough
for us to know at the present time. As
to the grade in which the subject should
be taught, the third to eighth, for town
or city schools, would seem to be the
most desirable, and it should constitute
at least a weekly exercise for all pupils
in rural schools. It may be taught in
connection with animal studies, including
insects, birds, quadrupeds, etc., or as
an adjunct to physical geography, or it
may be taught as a separate study,
which would be better and preferable al-
ways. It should be a beginning study,
and greater progress will be made if
the child has not acquired false notions
of animals and plants from books.

Let him learn in the beginning to an-
alyze the plant for himself, to study the
functions of its various parts, and their
relation to the ultimate development of
the plant or animal, as the case may be,
and in this way he can reason out for
himself the many useful lessons that
plants and animals teach. Most of us
go blindly through life; we do not un-
derstand or appreciate the beauties of
nature; we do not enjoy the thousand and
one wonderful questions which are placed
before our enjoyment, because we have
never been taught in youth to know and
appreciate these things. How much more
enjoyment there is in life to the person
who finds something new and interest-
ing in every phase of nature.

What a beautiful study agriculture, or
nature study, as some prefer to call it,
may be made. How important it is to
know how the plant feeds, to understand
that the plant is a living creature, that it
has organized parts, that it lives, that it
breathes and grows, and that its being
governed as we are; that it lives its
little circumscribed life, serves its use-
ful function, produces seed, and disap-
pears very much as the human being.
What a difference it would make to all
of us, and particularly to the children,
if we understood the true functions of
plants and animals, the uses of the
various organs, the processes by which
life is sustained, and the relation of
various elements of plant food to the
development of certain organs of the plant
and animal. If as a result of the study
growing up in our rural districts under-
stood how to manage plants and ani-
mals intelligently, how to develop the
most useful qualities and eliminate the
unprofitable traits through selection and
crossing, and what a marvellous im-
provement would be effected, not only
in the quality of the soil and its crop
producing capacity, but in the resulting
plants and animals which are raised
thereon. The faculty of observation
would be fully developed in these boys
and girls and they would become fami-

ly with which we live, move and have our
being. Surely, the teaching of a subject
so fraught with vital concern to mil-
lions of human beings in our own coun-
try should not be neglected any longer,
and especially as it is such a simple,
practical and satisfying subject to pur-
sue.

There is no more serious obstacle to
solve in order to introduce agriculture
into our schools, than to have success in
all our schools, both urban and rural, as
it has been fully demonstrated that
teachers can be trained and educated so
that they can impart the principles of
this important subject in an interesting
and helpful manner. The teacher should
view of these facts, the solution of
this question is a comparatively simple
one. If all those who realize its im-
portance, would put their shoulders to the
wheel, the riddle can be quickly solved,
and the benefits are so patent, and the
advantage so great, that their sacrifice
be too severe to attain an end so de-
sirable and fraught with such helpful
influences to so many who are now grog-
ging along in darkness because they were
not afforded the opportunity of obtaining
instruction in the fundamental principles
of their life-long occupation. When the
mind was young and tender and receptive
to the teachings of nature.

ANDREW M. BOULE.

Blackburg, Va.

The Covington Normal Institute.

The State Teachers' Institute to be
held in Covington, June 25th to July 7th,
includes, prominently, a series of lectures
and is a most helpful. Many applications
for enrollment have already been received,
and general interest is manifest in all
adjacent counties. The county superin-
tendents are exerting every effort in their
behalf, and it is to be expected that the
attendance will be very large.

In order to secure most pleasant accommo-
dations, it is quite important that those
who contemplate attending should enroll
without delay. Enrolling does not ne-
cessarily compel teachers to attend, but
our communications will be promptly
answered if addressed to Local Manager
Prof. J. G. Jeter, Covington, Va.

The purpose of the Institute is to give
teachers thorough courses of instruction
in the branches usually taught in the
public schools, especially those in which
the teachers have been deficient. It is con-
sidered that subject-matter and method
can be successfully combined, and that
the best results can be attained by
giving thorough reviews in regular class
work, thus demonstrating the value of
Comenius, "Things to be learned are
learned by doing them."

The various subjects will be presented
according to the best modern methods,
and every effort made to give teachers
careful training in the underlying prin-
ciples of education.

With these ends in view, the faculty
has been carefully selected from instruc-
tors who have made teaching a life pro-
fession, and who have been eminently
successful in their chosen work.

The sessions of the Normal will be held
in the recitation rooms of the High
School building, the Masonic Temple, and
the Odd Fellows Hall. The night lec-
tures and entertainments will be held in
the handsome new theatre, and the so-
cial functions in the ball-room of the In-
temont Hotel.

It is important that all teachers arrive
in time to attend the lectures on the
opening day. The scope of each subject
is such, that in order to understand and
appreciate the continuity of the course
arranged, teachers should be present at